

The Face of Global Trade: Associates in Cultural Exchange

As the flow of people and ideas from around the world has converged to form a global community, it has become increasingly important to enhance opportunities for cultural awareness and understanding so that people from different backgrounds or countries can effectively communicate. Associates in Cultural Exchange (A.C.E.) is a prominent bridge for people and organizations around the world to create new connections and build interpersonal networks through its array of language classes, academic and career preparation, cross-cultural organization, training programs and conference management programs.

International Success

Since its founding in 1973, A.C.E. has provided programs and services to over 100,000 participants and clients from the U.S. and over 50 countries around the globe. In fact, 20,000 of those participants are international. Each year, over 700 full time international students take part in A.C.E. Language Institutes, a program held on five college and university campuses - four in the U.S. and one in Australia. The students come from over forty different countries and study on a year-round basis.

Another successful program offered by A.C.E. - known as Language Works! - teaches foreign language classes to 1500 children each year in over

70 public and private elementary schools in Western Washington. A.C.E. partners with local PTSAs (Parent, Teacher, Student Associations), school administrators, community coordinators and volunteers to help kids connect with the global community.



In addition to its language programs, A.C.E. organizes international study tours, youth camps, enrichment programs, training, conferences and consulting, all aimed at creating an inclusive global community.

Numerous alumni from A.C.E. have gone on to earn a Master's degree after their studies and have risen to prominence in their professions after their time at one of the language centers. Studies at A.C.E. provide students an opportunity to complete their undergraduate or graduate degrees at American universities, after which they establish business ties to the people they met in this region, or were employed by local companies.

Why Puget Sound?

The Puget Sound region is a natural place for A.C.E. to call home. The area's cultural diversity and numerous international residents creates a need for programs that work to bring people and communities together. A.C.E.'s goal of promoting cultural understanding and a "one world" mindset is realized on a daily basis as it works with children and adults through its various programs.

The enhanced cultural awareness and understanding that A.C.E. and similar organizations bring to participants and clients increases this region's ability to compete in the global economy. Better understanding and communication leads to productive and enduring relationships with our international trading partners, which in turn increases our region's international competitiveness - a major key to Puget Sound's future growth and prosperity.

Name: Associates in Cultural Exchange (A.C.E.)

Location: Seattle, King County

Year Started: 1973

Programs: A.C.E. Language Institutes, Language Works!, study tours, youth camps, training, conferences and consulting

Participants since founding: over 100,000

Puget Sound Enabler: International connections and cultural diversity